

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

Listing of the Claims

- 5 1. (Currently amended): A process for reducing
the sulfur and nitrogen content of a distillate feedstock to
produce refinery transportation fuel or blending components for
refinery transportation fuel wherein the feedstock contains
heteroaromatic sulfur-containing and nitrogen-containing
10 organic impurities which process comprises:
- (a) Contacting the feedstock with an oxygen-containing gas
in an oxidation zone at oxidation conditions in the
presence of an oxidation catalyst comprising at least one
active Group VIII metal present in an amount ranging
15 from about 4 percent to about 50 percent based on the
total catalyst weight selected from the group consisting of
the *d*-transition elements in the Periodic Table having
atomic number from 21 to 30 inclusive, and a basic
support selected from the group consisting of alkali
20 oxides and alkaline earth oxides to convert the sulfur and
nitrogen-containing organic impurities to oxidized sulfur
and nitrogen-containing compounds; and
- (b) Separating a portion of the oxidized sulfur and nitrogen-
containing compounds from the oxidation zone effluent as
25 by distillation to a cut point temperature by which 90
percent of the sulfur-containing compounds in the
feedstock would boil and thereby rejecting a portion of
the oxidized sulfur compounds as residue, and recover a
distillate effluent having a reduced amount of the

oxidized sulfur and nitrogen-containing compounds and a TAN number of less than about 2.0 mg KOH/g.

2. (previously presented): The process of claim 1
5 wherein the Group VIII metal is cobalt and the basic support is member of the group consisting of magnesium oxide and calcium oxide.

3 to 8 inclusive (canceled)

- 10 9. (original): The process of claim 1 wherein the Group VIII metal is cobalt and the basic support is magnesium oxide.

10. (original): The process of claim 9 wherein the Group VIII metal is present in an amount ranging from about 4 wt. % to about 12 wt. %.

- 15 11. (Currently amended): The process of claim 1 [[10]] wherein the distillation cut point is such that the distillate effluent possesses a sulfur content of less than about 5 ppm wt.

12. (Currently amended): The process of claim 1 [[11]] wherein the distillation cut point is such that the distillate
20 effluent possesses a nitrogen content of less than about 10 ppm wt.

13. (Previously presented): The process of claim 1 wherein the Group VIII metal is present in an amount ranging from about 4 percent to about 12 percent based on the total
25 catalyst weight.

14. (Previously presented): The process of claim 13 wherein the Group VIII metal is cobalt and the basic support is member of the group consisting of magnesium oxide and calcium oxide.